

TIP of the WEEK

“Progress reports for open inspection items need to be as clear as possible. List as much pertinent data as possible to give an inspector a clear picture of status; AF/PACAF points of contact, CE work order numbers, and locations of letters or files are just some examples. Use co-workers as mock inspectors to gain incite to possible questions or areas that lack clarity.”

Construction alert

Road construction begins today and will continue through the summer in base housing. Detour routes will be marked. Call 377-1181.

Crab, Crud night

An all-you-can-eat King crab legs night takes place 5-8 p.m. today at the Aurora Club. The dinner is open to all ranks. A Northern Edge Crud tournament begins at 7 p.m. at the Aurora Club.

Welcome home ceremony

A Welcome Home Ceremony honoring the 354th Fighter Wing’s returning heroes is scheduled for 3 p.m. June 23 at Chapel Field. All Eielson members and their families are encouraged to attend.

Eielson AFB, Alaska
Home of the Iceman Team

Arctic Sentry

June 9, 2006
Vol. 46, No. 23

“Unrivaed Combat Capability Today and Tomorrow”

Rescue exercise trains Airmen



Photos by Staff Sgt. Joshua Strang

A pararescue team from the 31st Rescue Squadron, Kadena Air Base, Japan, exits a 210th Rescue Squadron, Det. 1, Pavehawk helicopter at the Combine Arms Collective Training Facility here during a Northern Edge 2006 training exercise Tuesday.

by Brian Lepley
Northern Edge Joint Information Bureau

FORT WAINWRIGHT – Northern Edge 2006 brought America’s two furthest-north military bases together for a joint personnel recovery mission Tuesday.

The Alaska National Guard’s 210th Rescue Squadron Det. 1 at Eielson teamed up with the 31st Rescue Squadron from Kadena Air Base, Japan, to evacuate mock casualties out of Fort Wainwright’s Combined Arms Collective Training Facility Tuesday.

Complicating the mission were unruly villagers, played by Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 52nd Aviation Regiment from Wainwright.

Exercises like Northern Edge and Tuesday’s operation gives the 31st a training opportunity it doesn’t get back in Okinawa, said Senior Airman John Courtright, 31st RQS.

“This great facility offers us a lot of training opportunities like we did today,” he said. “Not only did we rescue two people from a vehicle that crashed, we also did crowd control and containment.”

The scenario called for the squadrons to respond to a car crash with two personnel injured. Two of the CACTF’s several wrecked vehicles were positioned, two Soldiers were crammed into the front seat, fake blood was applied, and a machine belched smoke from underneath.

Two Pavehawk helicopters from the 210th circled the scene. A security team fast-roped out of one and established a perimeter. The rescue team then dropped in and both teams headed to the crash site.

This activity stirred the locals. The group harassed the Airmen, causing them to focus simultaneously on the rescue and security.

“Our Northern Edge participation exposed us to threats in an urban environment, which we don’t have access to in Japan,” said Maj. Andrew Reisenweber, 31st Rescue Squadron director of operations. “That kind of stress adds onto the scenario. Everybody was able to keep their cool and accomplish the mission successfully.”

One pararescue team assessed the patients’ condition, treated their



A pararescue team from the 31st RQS moves to a 210th RQS Pavehawk helicopter with a casualty at the Combine Arms Collective Training Facility.

most urgent wounds, and prepared them for medical evacuation while the other team kept the disruptive locals at bay. The patients, one on a stretcher, were taken to the field and loaded into a helicopter that had just touched down a few moments earlier. The teams got on and the helicopters sped away.

The casualties were placed back in the cars and the 210th and 31st Airmen returned, with the teams switching roles on the ground.

Reisenweber was pleased with the opportunity his Airmen got from the Northern Edge training.

“This is the first time that the 31st Rescue Squadron has trained in Alaska,” he said.

Army Sgt. Tim Meyer and Marine Lance Cpl. Chad Debree contributed to this story.

Icemen set sail in support of humanitarian efforts

by 2nd Lt. Bryon McGarry
354th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Two Iceman Team members recently deployed to the U.S. Navy hospital ship Mercy, in support of humanitarian efforts in Southeast Asia.

Staff Sgt. Erica Larsen, 354th Medical Operations Squadron public health technician, and Airman 1st Class Jessica Shealey, 354th MDOS dental technician, are providing health care and education to many who would otherwise be without.

As part of a joint team, consisting of medical professionals from the Air Force, Army, Navy and U.S. Public Health Service, among others, Sergeant Larsen and Airman Shealey are providing much-needed aid and receiving valuable training at the same time.

“As the overall Public Health Team deployed with the USNS Mercy, we are currently surveying the local area of Zamboanga, Philippines,” said Sergeant Larsen. “What that means is, we actually go to shore and tour the local hospitals, clinics, wards and so forth to get a clear picture of what conditions they are working in.”

The PHT then identifies shortfalls and recommends improvements, ranging in size and scope between adjusting general work practices to major facility reconstruction. The recommended improvements serve not only as short term fixes, but also as education for the future.

“We have been making educational handouts for the local population and health-care workers to include hand-wash-

ing procedures, rabies, Tuberculosis prevention, smoking cessation, sexually transmitted diseases and more,” she said. “We’ve also been giving lectures to the health-care workers on various health topics from food sanitation to waterborne diseases.”

Col. Michael Restey, 354th Medical Group Commander, said deployments like this give medical personnel invaluable experience.

“We take every opportunity that we can to allow our staff to deploy,” he said. “This gives them a great chance to practice their specialties in the deployed environment. It will certainly be a great experience for them and improve their capabilities for the Air Force.”

Airman Shealey said that experiences in her first deployment have already impacted her in ways she hadn’t expected.

“This whole mission has changed the way I look at things,” she said. “If anyone ever has the opportunity to go on a humanitarian mission such as this, I would highly encourage them to do so. It will definitely change you.”

Airman Shealey said things that are often taken for granted, such as plumbing and running water, are nowhere to be found in some of the locations the team has visited and that she’s proud to help in any way she can.

“Even though I don’t have any money to give to the people, I feel a greater sense of satisfaction when we’ve just taken them out of their pain and they turn around and thank you,” she said.

Airman Shealey has spent most of her 12-plus-hour days assisting in dental procedures both on shore and in the ship’s operating room. She said the little free time she has is spent participating in bingo and karaoke and learning a new military language.

Sergeant Larsen said she’s also adjusting to waking in the berthing area, freshening up in the head and grabbing a bite to eat on the mess deck.

The ship is scheduled to continue through the Philippines to Indonesia, Bangladesh and East Timor, delivering care and hope at every stop.

“It’s wonderful to see your work so appreciated,” Sergeant Larsen said. “If you could only see the locals’ faces light up when they see us coming, it’s amazing.”

Logistics; preparing Northern Edge 2006

by Marine Lance Cpl. Chad DeBree
Northern Edge Joint Information Bureau

Northern Edge 2006, a joint training exercise held by Alaskan Command, kicked off Monday, but not without the help of some careful planning.

“This is ALCOM’s exercise,” said Capt. Matthew Watson, Northern Edge 2006 project officer. “We are here to assist the building and execution of Northern Edge 2006.”

According to Watson, setting up for the exercise is like a football game. Alaska Command is the National Football League commission, Cope Thunder provides the

stadium and the referees, and the units are the teams.

“It all boils down to basically, we make sure the field is painted, the grass is cut, and everybody is following the rules,” he said. “We make sure that everybody is ready to come here and train.”

Red Flag Alaska is in charge of making sure that all participants receive computer accounts, security badges, and billeting as well as scheduling flights and making sure that all 66,000 square miles of Eielson is utilized for the exercise.

See **Logistics** Page 2



Airman Jonathan Snyder

Brig. Gen. Dany Van de Ven, a foreign defense attaché from Belgium, greets Staff Sgt. Dustin Norton, 354th Maintenance Group, at the Load Barn Tuesday during his visit to Eielson. The semi-annual Attaché Operations Orientation Program introduces the foreign attaché corps to DoD personnel, mission facilities, weapons systems/capabilities and exposes them to industrial, historical and cultural aspects of American society.



Iraqi Freedom: 74
Enduring Freedom: 57
Other: 4
Total = 135
As of June 7

ICEMEN DEPLOYED

Today

High 74, Low 51
Mostly Cloudy



Sunrise: 2:12 a.m.
Sunset: 11:31 p.m.
Daylight: 21 hrs. 27 mins.

Saturday

High 73, Low 51
AM Clouds/PM Sur



Sunrise: 2:10 a.m.
Sunset: 11:33 p.m.
Daylight: 21 hrs. 23 mins.

WEEKEND

Sunday

High 73, Low 49
Partly Cloudy



Sunrise: 2:08 a.m.
Sunset: 11:36 p.m.
Daylight: 21 hrs. 27 mins.

Logistics from Page 1

Approximately 700 security badges and computer accounts have been given to Airmen, Marines, Sailors, and Soldiers at Eielson alone, said Capt. Michael Clark, Northern Edge 2006 project operations officer.

The 35-year-old Philadelphia, Penn., native said that while project operations is in charge of helping getting Eielson up and running for the exercise, they do have a detachment at Elmendorf AFB to coordinate with ALCOM and schedule events taking place during Northern Edge.

“We (Eielson) make sure that we are ready and set up tactically because we are the local and know everything about the flight line and the airspace here,” said Capt. Clark. “This is ALCOM’s show but we’re the ones hosting a majority of the scenarios.”

Planning through range division will allow different scenarios to take place in the air space over Eielson.

“We make sure it is safe to perform these missions over our air space,” said Tech.Sgt. Tom Davis, range division NCO in charge, air instrumentation. “We track the aircraft by radar and satellite to make sure that they are doing everything properly. We also watch to see if they targeted correctly, shot accurately and if they were on target.”

Intelligence makes sure the war scenarios are played out according to plan. There will be surface-to-air-missile threats, air-to-air threats, and ground targets that the participants will have to engage, said Senior Master Sgt. Dan Hudson, Red Flag Alaska superintendent, .

“They’re making sure everything is as realistic as it can be,” said Duncan, S.C., native. “This exercise is basically to prepare to deploy to combat situations. We have to mesh well together because we’re going to deploy together, fight together and work together.”

Though the exercise is underway, there were problems that occur whenever a unit takes part in an exercise.

“Some difficulties that we have putting this together are that units think that they are on temporary duty here,” said Capt. Shawnn Martin, exercise support division chief. “The people want to operate as if they were on their home base and not on Eielson. We need to get everybody on the same page instead of everybody being separate. We need to make them cohesive.”

With every service training together in this exercise, this will prove to be a great experience for everybody involved.

“There are a lot of interesting units here right now,” said Lt. Col. Eddie Osteen, 353rd Combat Training Squadron commander. “This is the first time the F-22s are participating in this exercise. Having the Navy, Marine Corps, and active Air Force and Air National Guard is good training. There are a lot of good components taking part in this exercise and it should be a great experience.”

Stolen VA records: Airmen urged to be vigilant

Air Force officials are asking Airmen to stay extra vigilant in protecting their credit and themselves from identity theft in light of the recent theft of 26.5 million veterans’ records from the home of a Department of Veterans Affairs employee in May.

The VA announced over the weekend that the stolen records might include personal information of people currently in the military, according to a VA news release. Initial findings from the VA indicated the personal information on about 50,000 active-duty, National Guard and Reserve Airmen may have been involved.

As the two agencies compared electronic files, the VA and the Department of Defense learned that personal information on as many as 1.1 million active-duty servicemembers, 430,000 National Guardsmen, and 645,000 members of the Reserves may have been included in the data theft, according to the VA release June 7.

The VA has received no reports that the stolen data has been used for fraudulent purposes. However, the VA is asking all veterans to carefully monitor bank statements, credit card statements and any statements relating to recent financial transactions.

Several resources are available for people to go to for more information. The VA has set up a special Web site at www.firstgov.gov/veteransinfo and a toll-free telephone number, 800) FED-INFO or (800) 333-4636, that feature up-to-date news and information on the data compromise.

The site offers tips on how to check credit reports, how to guard against identity theft and whom to call if an individual believes any fraudulent activity is occurring using his or her personal information.

The Air Force and Department of Defense are working closely with the VA to determine how many Airmen and other service members may be affected by the

compromise of records. Airmen whose information has been compromised will be notified by the VA so they can take the appropriate steps.

Tips on how to watch for suspicious activity include the following:

– Closely monitor your bank and credit card statements for fraudulent transactions. Monitoring accounts online is the best way to detect fraud early.

– Place a 90-day fraud alert on your credit report, which tells creditors to contact you before opening any new accounts or making any changes to your existing accounts. This action may cause some delays if you are trying to obtain new credit.

– It is only necessary to contact one of three companies to place an alert. That company is then required to contact the other two. The three companies are Equifax (800) 525-6285, www.equifax.com; Experian (888) 397-3742, www.experian.com; and TransUnion (800) 680-7289, www.transunion.com).

Once the fraud alert has been posted, you are entitled to free copies of your credit reports. Review these reports for inquiries from companies you haven’t contacted or accounts you didn’t open. The alert can be renewed after 90 days.

Airmen are advised to take the following steps if they discover fraudulent accounts or transactions:

– Contact the financial institution to close the fraudulent account(s) that have been tampered with.

– File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission by phone at (877)438-4338, online at www.consumer.gov/idtheft, or by mail to Identity Theft Clearinghouse, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20580.

Information courtesy of Air Force Print News.

Rescue squadron honored



Left to Right, Lt. Col. Dave Looney and Staff Sgt. Mike Sullivan, 176th Wing, Kulis Air National Guard Base, and Maj. Bill Kupchin, 210th Rescue Squadron, Det. 1 commander, accept thanks June 1 from three of the 89 dogs they rescued during the Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race in February. The dogs and six mushers were stranded at Eagle Summit during a snowstorm. Members of the Yukon Quest board of directors thanked the aircrew during an appreciation ceremony at the 210th RQS.

Ice men save six mushers, 89 dogs from snowstorm

by 2nd Lt. Bryon McGarry
354th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

As Sammy sat atop Eagle Summit in February, stranded due to a snowstorm centered on that leg of the Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race, he may have wondered to himself, “How did I get myself into this mess, and more importantly, how am I going to get myself out?”

Luckily, Iceman Team members answered that question for him. Members of the 210th Rescue Squadron, Det. 1, rescued Sammy and his associates from the summit, braving rough terrain and inclement weather to ensure the race participants compete another day.

At an appreciation ceremony at the 210th RQS June 1, Sammy thanked the aircrew that saved him with hearty handshakes and appreciative face licks.

Sammy was one of 89 dogs that were rescued by the 210th RQS that day, in addition to six mushers who were also stranded. Members of the Yukon Quest board of directors presented the 210th RQS with a shadow box in appreciation of their efforts.

“We’re honored by the gesture of thanks,” said Maj. Bill Kupchin, 210th RQS, Det. 1 commander. “It’s a rare opportunity to participate in a mission like this and I’m proud to have been a part of it.”

The 210th’s rescue efforts were bolstered by support from

rescue specialists out of the 176th Wing, Kulis Air National Guard Base, in Anchorage. Lt. Col. Dave Looney, 176th Wing flight safety officer and pilot of the HH-60 Pavehawk that made the rescue, said the mission is surely one he’ll never forget.

“We’re definitely competitive within the squadron for cool missions,” said Colonel Looney. “So when we came back from this one, we just kind of said ‘ha ha’ to our squadron mates.”

Aliy Zirkle, owner of several of the rescued dogs, thanked the aircrew for their efforts.

“The rescue was very emotional,” she said. “These dogs are the heart and soul of the race and the racers, and it means the world to have them back safe.”

Colonel Looney had a moment to find humor in the rescue when he peered back to the cabin and found a dog standing on the instrument console staring back at him.

“We had about 25 dogs in there on one trip,” he said. “We basically had to load them, close the door and then stuff them through the window. One of them apparently got fed up and wandered towards the front of the cockpit to see if he could get some breathing room.”

Colonel Looney politely patted his curious visitor on the head and ushered him back to the general dog population waiting area. After toughing out waits as long as 24 hours, all 89 dogs and all six mushers returned home safely.

Major Kupchin put the rescue mission into perspective for the ceremony crowd.

“Between Colonel Looney and I, we must have about 8,000 flight hours and 200-plus missions,” he said. “I think I can honestly say that this mission will always be one of our most rewarding.”

Promoting ZOP

With an ever-decreasing defense budget, Eielson needs members to maximize the use of their resources. One way to ensure this occurs is to reduce overpricing in Air Force acquisitions.

The Zero Overpricing Program was established specifically for this purpose. In addition, the program interfaces with the suggestion program to provide recognition and awards to personnel who successfully identify such overpriced items.

If someone has reason to believe an item is overpriced, they can complete an Air Force Form 1046, “Zero Overpricing Challenge/Referral,” and forward it to Tech. Sgt. Stephanie Lodde, 354th Logistics Readiness Squadron NCO in charge of customer service, or call 377-3449 for processing.

For questions, or additional information, please contact the ZOP monitor, Sergeant Lodde.

Courtesy of the 354th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

Voluntary retirements announced for officers

The Air Force is offering additional voluntary retirements to a select group of officers, officials announced today.

As a result of the Fiscal 2006 National Defense Authorization Act, the Force Shaping Program Phase II additional measures offer voluntary retirements to officers with at least eight years Total Active Federal Commissioned Service and 20 years Total Active Federal Military Service.

The Air Force will waive active duty service commitments (except Aviation Continuation Pay, Judge Advocate Continuation Pay and Critical Skills Retention Bonus) and allow officers meeting these criteria to apply for voluntary retirement on Sept. 1, 2006, or earlier.

Lieutenant colonels and colonels who are retirement eligible are encouraged to apply for retirement between now and Sept. 1, 2007.

Some force shaping initiatives are still offered such as the “Blue to Green” option for officers and the waiver for lieutenant colonels and colonels to retire with two years time in grade through 2007. The Air Force is also authorizing a temporary program to allow officers to establish a voluntary retirement date up to 15 months in advance.

If not enough volunteers elect to retire under this force shaping initiative, a Selective Early Retirement Board could convene in 2007.

DWI CLOCK

The Iceman Team goal is 60 days without a DWI.

Days without a DWI: 19
Days until goal: 42



Need a free ride home from the North Pole area or on base?
Call: 377-RIDE from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. Friday and Saturday nights
Need a ride home from Fairbanks?
Call: Klondike Cab, at 457-RIDE (7433) for discounted rides back to base.

AADD VOLUNTEERS

Airmen Against Drunk Driving volunteers gave 19 rides last weekend and have ‘saved’ 4,882 lives to date.

Special thanks to last week’s Icemen volunteers for helping keep our Airmen safe.

Staff Sgt. Jaramiah Johnson

Senior Airman Janet Robinson

Staff Sgt. Kimensha Harris

Staff Sgt. Cassandra Phalen

1st Lt. Jennifer Vaita

Senior Airman Jeremy Russell

Senior Airman Michael Mucha

Airman 1st Class Robert Hilligus

Airman 1st Class Jeremy Faulkner

Staff Sgt. John Davis

EDITORIAL STAFF

Brig. Gen. Dave Scott
Commander, 354th Fighter Wing

Capt. Christopher Anderson
Chief, Public Affairs

2nd Lt. Bryon McGarry
Deputy Chief, Public Affairs

Tech. Sgt. William Farrow
NCOIC, Public Affairs

Airman 1st Class Justin Weaver
Editor

Airman Nora Anton
Assistant Editor



Published by *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner* a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 354th Fighter Wing. This weekly commercial enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the military services. Contents of the *Arctic SENTRY* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts and supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner* of the products and services advertised. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit or merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the public affairs office of Eielson AFB. All photos are official Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated. The deadline for submission of articles for publication in the *Arctic SENTRY* is 4 p.m. Friday, seven days prior to the publication date.

COMMANDER'S
CORNERCommander's
Hotline

377-6100

The Hotline is your opportunity to get your issues and comments directly to me so I can address them.

Before you call the hotline, however, I strongly encourage you to give the unit involved, your first sergeant or commander a shot at resolving the issue. The Iceman Team takes care of its own, but you should give these people the chance to help. Please leave the names and organizations of the people you've contacted who have been unable to satisfy your concern, and I will look into the problem.

Your confidentiality will be respected at all times. Thank you!

Brig. Gen. Dave Scott
354th Fighter Wing commander

Newspaper
deadlines

ARCTIC SENTRY deadlines are close of business Friday prior to the following Friday's publication. E-mail submissions to editor@eielson.af.mil.

Story ideas?

THE ARCTIC SENTRY staff seeks to provide its customers with informative stories about the Iceman Team.



Get out, get active – summer is here

by Airman 1st Class Carl Kline
354th Communication Squadron

With summer now in full swing, it is that time when many of us begin to realize what we have gained from those long, cold months - saddle bags and beer guts.

No worries, though. All it takes to rid oneself of that extra baggage is a willingness to engage in a more active lifestyle, which most of us warmly welcome after being cooped up indoors all winter. On the upside, there are many interests to choose from to fill your time, so all you have to do is lace up your sneakers.

Now that the weather is cooperating and the days are longer, you can combine sightseeing with exercise. Venture out and experience all that this great state of Alaska has to offer. If the warm weather has you itching to get out, go for a bike ride, hit the hiking trails, climb some rocks or paddle down a river - just put that energy to work. Tons of easily accessible areas nearby are covered with trails, rocks and rivers just begging for attention. The varied terrain of the Alaskan wilderness will challenge your body in ways that indoor exercise machines cannot.

Instead of taking a crack at the outdoors, others like to get out and play a little ball with friends. So take advantage of the opportunity and join one of the squadron or downtown softball leagues. Or, try picking up a new sport like golf or tennis and head to



one of the courses or courts around town for fun and a great exercise.

Do it - just don't overdo it. If you've been a couch potato all winter long, it is unrealistic to expect that you can just pick up where you left off last season. The number of sports-related injuries spikes as soon as the temperature rises. So keep in mind that slow and steady wins the race. If you overexert your body with exercise and get injured, you'll be out of the race altogether.

Most activities have their own related injuries, ranging from sprains and strains to tears of muscles and ligaments and broken bones. Additionally, the heat also brings about more incidences of heat-related injuries and illnesses like heat exhaustion and

“Do it-just don’t overdo it. If you’ve been a couch potato all winter long, it is unrealistic to expect that you can just pick up where you left off last season.”

Airman 1st Class Carl Kline
354th Communications Squadron

Icemen encouraged to practice water safety

Boating Safety

Boating accident statistics show that wearing a life jacket is the number-one thing that can be done to greatly increase chances of surviving a boating accident.

According to the Coast Guard's latest available statistics, 750 boaters died in 2002. Eighty-five percent of those who drowned were not wearing their life jackets even though in many cases, life jackets were aboard.

Although wearing a life jacket is the number one boating safety step, the National Safe Boating Council offers four other steps to dramatically reduce the chances of being hurt or killed in a boating accident.

Stay sober in your boat

“An operator with a blood alcohol content above .10 (equivalent to consuming five beers in one hour for the average 180 lb. male) is 10 times more likely to die in a boating accident than an operator with zero blood alcohol. “Stressors such as sun, vibration, noise, and other environmental elements affect the body more when you consume alcohol,” said Staff Sgt. Richard Caudill, 354th Fighter Wing Safety Office. “Operating a boat under the influence of alcohol or drugs is illegal in all states and violation of federal law.”

Take a safe boating course

Seventy percent of recreational boating accidents are caused by factors that are controlled by the boat's operator — such as failure to pay attention, carelessness, recklessness, inexperience, excessive speed, and failure to watch for hazards. “A boating safety course is offered by outdoor recreation, said Sergeant Caudill. “It's a great way for you to learn boating safety and the rules on the water.”

Get your boat checked

“Avoid the long paddle back to shore, ensure your vessel is in good working condition” said Sergeant Caudill. For a vessel inspection appointment call the Coast Guard Auxillary at 488-8207 and leave a message. For more information go to www.vesselsafetycheck.org.

Be aware of carbon monoxide

All boat engines produce carbon monoxide - an odorless, colorless, poisonous gas that can kill you in a matter of minutes. “Boaters are killed every year because of improper cabin ventilation, poorly maintained equipment, and careless behavior, said Sergeant Caudill. “You do not have to be inside the boat to be at risk. Boaters have died from exposure on the swim platforms of their boats and in other areas where CO exhaust may accumulate or be emitted.” Be aware of the early symptoms such as irritated eyes, headache, nausea, weakness, and dizziness, and use CO detectors.

“People are counting on you at home and work, don't become a statistic,” he said.

Swimming Safety

Afternoons by a pool, lake or river are great ways to escape summer heat, but Icemen need to be aware of risks and take safety precautions when swimming.

The following tips will keep everyone safe in the water:

- Learn to swim. “This might seem obvious, but the best way to stay safe around water is to know how to swim,” said Staff Sgt. Patrick Wilson, 354th Fighter Wing Safety Office.
- Use life jackets. A Coast Guard-approved life jacket is essential for safety, especially for beginning swimmers or young children. Don't substitute air-filled devices such as water wings or an inflatable raft for a life jacket.
- Supervise children closely. Keep an eye on children at all times when they're near or in the water.
- Avoid unsupervised areas. Whenever possible, swim in an area that has a lifeguard.
- Don't dive into the unknown. “If swimming in a new place, check the water depth before getting in and avoid diving,” said Sergeant Wilson. “Severe neck injuries and paralysis can result from diving into water that's too shallow.”
- Avoid alcohol. Stay sober in the water. Alcohol affects balance and coordination and can impair swimming skills. “It may also alter a person's sense of judgment, which might lead them to do something they wouldn't risk otherwise,” he said.
- Prepare for an emergency. Have a telephone and emergency phone numbers available. Learn cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and first aid.
- Watch for changing weather. Be prepared to head indoors if the skies look threatening and stay out of the water to avoid lightning strikes.

When venturing out to a lake, river or the ocean keep the following in mind when swimming in the open water:

Be in shape for what you intend to do. Don't do more than your physical condition easily allows. Cold water, currents and other conditions on the open water require more energy than swimming in a pool, warns Sergeant Wilson.

Don't swim alone. Swim with a friend.

Stay within designated swimming areas. Swimming is prohibited in all lakes, ponds, and streams on base. This includes those west (across) of the Richardson Highway

“An unseen danger in the water is silt,” said Sergeant Wilson. “As the water flows through your clothes the silt becomes trapped in the fabric causing you to basically become weighted down. Silt is more common in rivers than lakes. The big problem with lakes is the fact the surface may be warm but several feet down the water is still extremely cold and this can affect a swimmer by causing them to cramp up from the shock. So the warm water on top can be very deceiving.”

Don't fight the current. “If you get caught in a particularly strong current, don't panic, said Sergeant Wilson. “Swim in a line parallel to the shore. When you feel the current relax, you can swim toward shore.”

“We haven't lost an Iceman in a swimming accident since 2002 ... lets keep it that way,” he said.

Courtesy of the USGS.

Go Guard

Alaska Air National Guard Members from the 168th Air Refueling Wing and 176th Wing, Staff Sgt. Jason De Heus (3:03:03), Tech Sgt. John Brunsberg (3:23:33), Tech Sgt. Shane Garling (3:09:35), and Capt. Paulette Goodwin (3:33:53) competed in the 26.2 mile long 2006 National Guard Lincoln Marathon in Lincoln, Neb. Finish times are in parenthesis following the names. Sergeant De Heus, Sergeant Brunsberg and Capt. Goodwin all set new personal records in the marathon. Sergeant De Heus and Capt. Goodwin each earned one of the 55 spots on the All Guard Recruiting and Retention Marathon Team and will represent the National Guard as they compete with the team throughout the year in various running events.



Courtesy photo

Arts and Crafts job opportunity

The Arts and Crafts Center is looking for a director to manage arts and crafts, the auto hobby shop, information, tickets and tours, leisure travel and the wood hobby shop. A positively-charged manager is needed to mentor, train and manage the resale program, financial programs and staff.

If you are creative, love working with people, enjoy managing a business and like variety and innovation, this is the job for you. Teaching classes and developing programs to keep our community engaged and involved is what the job is all about.

This is a full-time appropriated fund GS-0188-10 position. If you’ve never applied for an APF position, log on to the AFPC Web site at <http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil>. Select the following menu items: “Civilian Employees;” “Assignments and Jobs;” “Civilian Employment” and “How to Apply Information.”

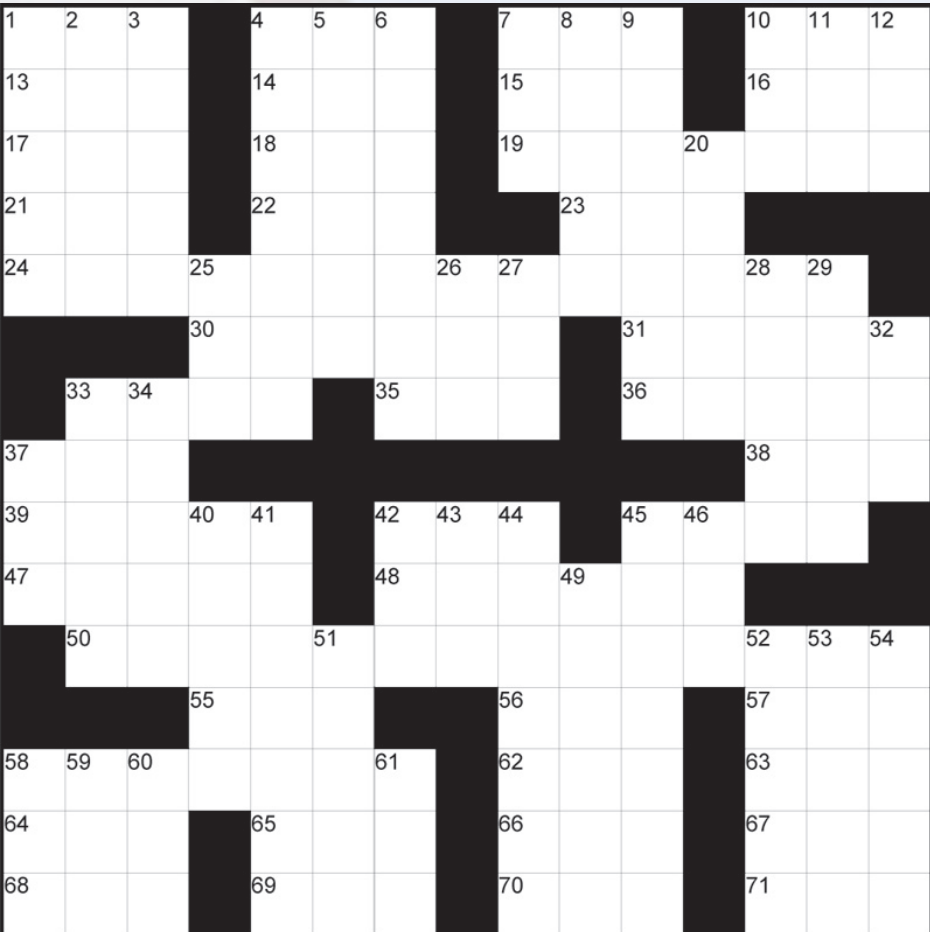
Anyone interested in employment as a GS-0188-10, recreation specialist, will need to “pre-position” their résumé before the announcement is posted on the web site. For more detailed information on applying for federal positions, call 377-2767 or 377-5210.

Happy B-Day Army

by Capt. Tony Wickman
71st Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

- ACROSS**
- 1. Mil. pay entitlement
 - 4. Lost actor Daniel ___ Kim
 - 7. U.S. Army NCO
 - 10. USA rank equivalent to USAF Command Chief
 - 13. NY Giant Manning
 - 14. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, formerly
 - 15. USAF NCO report
 - 16. Auto club
 - 17. Stimpý’s pal
 - 18. Part of WAPS testing
 - 19. Horse-drawn vehicle used to carry artillery ammo, caskets
 - 21. Federal environmental org.
 - 22. Bullring cheer
 - 23. USAF medal above Airman’s Medal
 - 24. U.S. Army motto
 - 30. Horn
 - 31. Languid
 - 33. Computes
 - 35. Goddess of the dawn
 - 36. More recent
 - 37. USAF Pilot with 5+ aerial kills
 - 38. ___ Claire
 - 39. Judge ___
 - 42. Heart test, in short
 - 45. Brisk

- 47. Scary
 - 48. Badly
 - 50. Headline grabber
 - 55. And so forth, in short
 - 56. Army BDU replacement
 - 57. Vehicle
 - 58. U.S. Army member
 - 62. Head movement
 - 63. Japanese sash
 - 64. Water to walk on
 - 65. Gun lobby
 - 66. Before, poetically
 - 67. Formerly known as
 - 68. Spy org.
 - 69. Wane
 - 70. ___ Moines
 - 71. Fourth year high school student in short
- DOWN**
- 1. Headgear for 58 ACROSS
 - 2. Hebrew letter
 - 3. Egyptian peninsula
 - 4. Cuts off
 - 5. Sock type
 - 6. Golden Girl Getty
 - 7. Min. part
 - 8. Tool for 58 ACROSS
 - 9. Fabulous beast



- 10. USAF mission to support USA
- 11. ___ Paulo
- 12. Person
- 20. Locale
- 25. Dejected
- 26. Fifth sign of the zodiac

- 27. ER attendants
- 28. Staircase support
- 29. Fear
- 32. Eliza Dushku show ___ Calling
- 33. Land measurements
- 34. Farm equipment maker

June 2 Solutions

AOL	CLASP	SIAM
PPE	BATHE	APNEA
SAG	SPEAR	CARTS
ELSA	LIMERICK	
LEGALLY		
EARPLUG	STREAMS	
TSO	AYE	HELMET
USUSPS	HEIDI	
DATES	VMI	SIN
EYEWEAR	HARDHAT	
BOSSIER		
SEATBELT	TOSS	
ATRIA	LOUSY	SPA
STEER	ENSUE	HUB
SEAR	REAPS	ADC

- 37. Summer beverage
- 40. Ate
- 41. Decree beforehand
- 42. Fifth time zone west of Greenwich
- 43. Bright-colored Asian carp
- 44. Whimpered
- 45. Monet and others
- 46. Popeye’s girl Olive
- 49. Curtain call
- 51. Sharp or biting
- 52. Desktop images
- 53. U.S. Army officers’ sword
- 54. Attempts
- 58. Trespass
- 59. U.S. Army commissioning source
- 60. Lawn
- 61. Item for USAF controlled areas

Downtown activities

Local events for the week of June 9-15

Films at the Alaska Public Lands Information Center

Free Admission
Open every day from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.,
250 Cushman St., Suite 1A
Lower Level of Courthouse Square
Fairbanks, Alaska
(907) 456-0527

Bridge” (30 minutes)

2 p.m. - Alaska RV Adventure (75 minutes)
4 p.m. - Alaska - Spirit of the Wild (40 minutes)

Alaska Bird Observatory

Go to the nature center on the grounds at 418 Wedgewood Dr., Fairbanks. The center provides free information, exhibits and programs on a variety of Alaskan birds. Guided bird walks and local birding information are available. For more information, visit <http://www.alaksabird.org> or call 451-7159.

Fairbanks Summer Music Festival

The free Fairbanks Summer music festival is slated for Saturday at Pioneer Park. Bring your lawn chair and take advantage of a whole day of free live music including Folk, Bluegrass, Blues, Jazz, Celtic and more. For more information visit <http://www.alaskafolkmusic.org> or call 488-0556.

Today and Saturday

11 a.m. - Make Prayers to the Raven: The Life in the Bear (30 minutes)
Noon - 40 Below in Fairbanks (30 minutes)
2 p.m. - Alaska (Rand McNally) (40 minutes)
4 p.m. - Tooth Walkers - Giants of the Arctic (60 minutes)

Tuesday to June 15

11 a.m. - Make Prayers to the Raven: The Forest of Eyes (30 minutes)
Noon - Journey of Discovery “Landscape History of the Bering Land



Airman Jonathan Snyder

Left, right, left
Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets learn to march in step during a 10-day JROTC leadership camp at Eielson last week. The camp is comprised of students from three different high schools: Ben Eielson High School, North Pole High School and Lather High School. The camp teaches cadets about military history, core values, discipline and the importance of physical fitness.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Boy scouts
The Midnight Sun Council of the Boy Scouts of America is requesting 12 military volunteers (10 not AFSC specific and two medical technicians) to help provide leadership of Boy Scout and Cub Scout programs to more than 300 Scouts. Training is June 19-23. Call Capt. Christoper Anderson at 377-1088 or 2nd Lt. Bryon McGarry at 377-1411.

Job opportunity
Air transportation opportunities for freight and cargo handlers, air terminal gate agent positions available at Eielson AFB. Fax resumes to: Mr. Robert Christe at-338-0869 or e-mail: rchrste@trailboss.biz.

SRB changes
Air Force headquarters announced several significant changes to the selective re-enlistment bonus program. Airmen should contact the career enhancement element at 377-4857 or 377-5777 to determine their eligibility to re-enlist with an SRB entitlement.

Jewish lay leader needed
Eielson Chaplain Services is looking for a Jew-

ish Lay Leader, whose responsibilities include acting as a contact between the chapel staff and our Jewish community here on Eielson AFB. If you or someone you know is a part of the Jewish faith and would be interested in serving in this capacity, please call Airman Daniel Coomer at 377-2130 or fax to 377-1358.

Summer reading program
A summer reading program for ages preschool through 6th grade and grades 7 to 12 is scheduled through July 21 and will take place Monday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Eielson Base Library. Call 377-3174.

Auto and wood skills
Enroll in auto and wood skills classes at the arts and crafts center. Learn to make a hunting or personal utility knife just in time for Father’s Day. Call 377-4880.

Farthest North Ride
A Muscular Dystrophy benefit ride is scheduled for Saturday at the Fartherst North Harley-Davidson Outpost. Prizes and barbecue offered. For more

information, call 1-800-478-5683.

Sun Run volunteers needed
The upcoming Midnight Sun Run is slated for June 17. For more information, call Jack Daly at 452-7211.

Assessment survey
The 2006 Community Assessment Survey is underway and is designed to assess the current state of the Air Force community by measuring community satisfaction, personnel preparedness, family adaptation, and physical, spiritual and mental well-being and safety. All dependant spouses may take the survey online. Individuals will receive an access code to complete the survey. Go to www.spouseAFCAsurvey.com.

21 Mile Rifle & Pistol Club
The 21 Mile Rifle & Pistol Club is open 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays and 12 to 5 p.m. Saturdays. Membership forms are available at the natural resources office and the skeet range. For more information, call Gene Scarboro at 488-5502 or John Karish at 377-3613.

Summer detour
The State Department of Transportation will

be installing the Richardson Highway detour throughout the summer. For more information, call 377-5213.

Outdoor tours
Outdoor Adventure tours and classes for June include canoeing, biking, all-terrain vehicles and hiking. For more information or to make reservations, visit the outdoor recreation office at Bear Lake or call 377-1232.

Attraction discounts
The Information, Tickets and Tours office has discounts to attractions in Fairbanks, Valdez, Seward and the Arctic Circle. Call 377-4880.

Change of command
In a change-of-command ceremony Monday at Heritage Park, Lt. Col. Eleanor Nazar-Smith took over 354th Medical Operations Squadron command from Lt. Col. Cori Culver.

Free technology expo
There will be a free information technology exposition 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday at the Aurora Club. For more information, call (888) 282-2262, or visit www.atc-expo.com/shows.

Community center

The community center houses a playland, family exercise room, game room, television lounge and more. The center also offers various programs and special events for the entire family. Party rooms are also available. A photography club meets 6 p.m. Thursdays at the community center. No reservations are needed. For more information, 377-2642.

Acrobatics Camp

Acrobatics camp begins for youth center members age 5 through 18. One-hour sessions take place weekdays through June 16. All skill levels are welcome. The fee is \$30 for the camp. Call 377-3194.

Strike Force

Strike Force bowling continues through July 31. Receive punches on SF cards for each paid game of bowling or when a large soda product is purchased. Rewards are earned for completed cards. Monthly prize drawings take place for cash prizes of \$250 and \$500. Ask about the red, white and blue Summer Strike Force cards at Arctic Nite Lanes. Call 377-1129.

SERVICES PROGRAMS

Editor’s Note: For a list of other classes and programs, call 377-3268 or surf to www.eielsonservices.com. RSVP for classes. Outdoor recreation rents ski equipment, Ice fishing equipment and various other outdoor equipment. Call 377-1232.

Programs

Texas Hold ‘em tournaments: 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays at the Yukon Club. Call 377-1075.
Deployed bowling for family members: 5 to 7 p.m. Fridays at Arctic Nite Lanes. Call 377-1129.
Trap shoot: 5 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays at the skeet and trap range. Instruction, ammunition and loaner guns are available. Call 377-5338.
FitFactor weekly events: 2:30 p.m. Fridays at the youth center.
Skeet league: Log 50 targets per week. Any adult, active-duty, Guard or Reserve member, family member, civilian or retiree may join the league. Call 377-5338.
Chess club: 5:30 p.m. Thursdays at the community center. Call 377-2642.
Spades tournament: 8 p.m. Fridays at the Yukon Club.
Bowling instruction: Available at Arctic Nite Lanes. Call 377-1129.



Today

❖Enjoy all-you-can-eat Alaskan King crab legs 5 to 8 p.m. in the Aurora Club. The dinner is open to the base community and visiting personnel of all ranks. Pay \$34.95 for the dinner, or \$28.95 with club card.

❖A Crud tournament to kick off the Northern Edge exercise is slated to take place 5 to 8 p.m. after the crab bake, in the Sourdough Saloon officers’ lounge.

Saturday

❖Adults and children of all ages are welcome to join in the first annual Remote Control Car Rally noon at the community center. The

fee to enter is \$1 per RC car. Sign up in advance. Call 377-2642.

Sunday

❖Preteens and teens can travel to the Carlson Center for three-on-three basketball tournament. Reserve space at the youth center. To sign up, call 377-3194.

Monday

❖Teens, drop by the library and sign up to participate in the free summer reading program for a chance to win prizes and join in a participants’ party in the fall in Fairbanks. Call 377-3174.

Tuesday

❖A free water aerobics sessions takes place 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. at

the fitness center. Classes are open to all adult community members. Call 377-1266 or 377-1925.

Wednesday

❖A youth bowling trip is pay-as-you-go for members of the youth center age 9 through 12. Members may sign up for youth outings and activities each Wednesday with youth center staff. Call 377-3194.

Thursday

❖Teens will enjoy an Angel Rocks Hike with youth center staff 1 to 6 p.m. Youth center membership and registration required. Call 377-3194.



All movies show at 7 p.m. at the base theater unless otherwise noted.

Tonight: SILENT HILL

When the doctor of a troubled young girl recommends permanent psychiatric institutionalization and the girl’s concerned mother refuses to accept the grim diagnosis, the mother and daughter flee to a strange abandoned town of Silent Hill to seek out answers. Rated R (horror violence/gore, disturbing images, language) 125 minutes.

Saturday 7 p.m.: AMERICAN DREAMZ

On the morning of his re-election, the President decides to read the newspaper for the first time in four years. This starts him down a slippery slope. He begins reading obsessively, reexamining his black and white view of the world, holing up in his bedroom in his pajamas. His Chief of Staff pushes him back into the spotlight as a guest judge on the television ratings juggernaut. Rated PG-13 (language, sexual

references) 107 minutes.

Saturday 10 p.m.: SILENT HILL

Sunday 1 p.m.: AKEELAH AND THE BEE

A young girl learns to believe in herself and value her intelligence in this family-friendly drama. Akeelah Anderson is an 11-year-old being raised by her mother, Tanya, who was left on her own after the death of her husband. While Akeelah is a very bright girl, she’s hardly a star student and seems afraid of acting like a book-worm around her friends and classmates. However, Akeelah’s teacher sees genuine potential in her student and encourages her to enter the school’s spelling bee, which gets tougher when she goes to a statewide bee. Rated PG (language) 112 minutes.

Sunday 7 p.m. AKEELAH AND THE BEE

Thursday: AMERICAN DREAMZ



Airman Jonathan Snyder

Arts and Crafts

Elizabeth Flanery, 354th Services Squadron recreation aid, fixes a broken frame at the Arts & Crafts Center above the base library on June 7. Some services available at the Arts and Crafts center are custom framing, engraving, quilting and painting. They also offer classes in the evenings during the winter months to keep Icemen engaged. The center is currently looking for a full-time director, who would have oversight of arts, crafts, the auto hobby shop, information and more. If interested, call the Civilian Personnel Office at 377-2767 or 377-5210.

ACCESS EIELSON

Editor’s Note: Access Eielson is the central source for all base helping agencies. All activities take place at the family support center unless otherwise noted. For a list of other classes and programs call 377-2178 or go to www.eielson.af.mil.

Upcoming Events

Federal Job Search: 10 to 11 a.m. Tuesday.
Sponsorship Training: 3 to 4 p.m. Tuesday.
Investing 101: 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday
Give Parents a Break: 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. Saturday.
Kids on the Move: 2 to 3 p.m. Thursday.
Pre-Separation Briefing: 2 to 3 p.m. Thursday.

Ongoing Programs

Deployment Briefings: Tuesdays and Thursdays, single Airmen at 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. and married Airmen at 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.
Ready, Set, Grow Playgroup: 10 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays at the community center.
Polar Stroller Rollers: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays at the youth center gym.
Pet Sitters List: Identifies community members who are available to care for your pets in your home.

City of North Pole

7th Annual Community Neighborhood Day Celebration

Free Outdoor Picnic and Awards Ceremony
Hosted by New Jerusalem COGIC

Date: July 23rd, 2006
Time: 3:00 – 6:00 pm
Location: 2515 Mission Rd
North Pole, AK
907-488-3460 / 488-7320

Categories:
() Volunteer
() Honorable Service
() Bravo – Courageous Airmen
() Leaders
() Husbands & Fathers & Home School Dads
() Wives & Mothers & Home school Moms
() Youth (any age)

Please give the Name & Number of your favorite person and a short explanation why you feel they should receive this award.

Favorite Person's Name: Ph.#

Ballot Participant's Name: Ph.#

Please feel free to vote for your other Favorite People in different categories. Votes will be judged on merit (not by number) by a panel from the COGIC. All nominees will receive a certificate of appreciation from the North Pole Community and one winner from each category will be recognized at the picnic by the Governor of Alaska.

Exalting our Military & Families in our Community

Here's your Opportunity to Vote for your Favorite Person in your Community. All you have to do is e-mail the information on the ballot to the right to barbieann@tgc.net. For more information, call Sister Barbie at 488-3460.

Now open,
Main St. Espresso

“Proudly serving Starbucks.”

5:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays through
Fridays and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays
and Sundays

Located in the BX cafeteria next to Baskin Robbins

STREET BUZZ

“How do you volunteer in the community?”



“I plan on helping out with Airmen Against Drunk Driving.”

Senior Airman Zach Curtiss, 354th AMXS



“I volunteer for the Red Cross all the time. I am also a merit-badge counselor for Boy Scouts of America.”

Maj. Benjamin Baker, 168th AMXS



“I volunteer at my church by teaching Sunday school to toddlers.”

Michelle Patty, wife of retired Master Sgt. Mike Patty



“My flight is responsible for highway cleanup.”

Airman 1st Class Daniel Bruce, 354th LRS



“Whenever I see trash, I pick it up so the base stays clean.”

Airman Dustin Dillard, 354th LRS

Coaches vital to base youth programs

by Airman Nora Anton
354th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

There is always that voice cheering in the back of the mind; after the other noises have faded away, after every missed ball they are the voices that cheer a child through to let them know, that they can reach those seemingly impossible goals. They root for them; teach them and mentor them. Even when the child sits in sheer amazement, as if to say, “I can’t believe I just did that.” a coach is there to reply with a pat on the back, “I knew you could do it all along.”

Coaches are always remembered. They are remembered because they are so important to children. Coaches mentor and teach team spirit and they show a child what they are capable of and helping them excel.

“Coaches are invaluable to Eielson’s youth sports programs. Without the time they and other volunteers take, our kids wouldn’t have the opportunity to learn how to play various sports,” said Capt. Christopher Anderson, 354th Fighter Wing Public Affairs chief.

Capt. Anderson recalls his own daughter’s personal growth during basketball season. He saw a great deal of improvement in her ability to play the sport throughout the season with the help and mentorship of her basketball coach.

“Sometimes I don’t think parents realize that without coaches, we wouldn’t have an effective youth program,” he said.

Eielson requires all volunteer coaches to attend and complete the Coach’s Certification through the National Youth Sports Coaches’ Association, provided by the National Alliance for Youth Sports.

The NAYS is a non-profit organization and seeks to improve the lives of youth by making the sports experience more positive, meaningful, and safe. This program is designed to sensitize volunteer coaches to their responsibilities and hold them to a code of ethics.

“The Eielson Youth Sports Program is dependent upon volunteers to fill the many coach’s positions each sport season,” said Sarah Nolin, Eielson Youth Center sports director.

“Coaches are the backbone of any youth sports program; they provide time, patience and experience that is critical for a program’s success. Many people do not realize what an impact the coach has on the youth who participate,” said Nolin.

“The most rewarding part of being a coach is watching the kids go out and have fun—that’s the bottom line. Honing their skills is important, but if they’re not having fun, then there is no point in being out there,” said Airman 1st Class Hunter Lindblad, 354th Logistics Readiness Squadron logistics planner, who was named Eielson’s 2006 National Youth Sports Coaches’ Association Coach of the Year.

Other coaches recognized during the opening-day ceremonies for Eielson Youth Baseball season were Senior Airman Tasia Perez, 354th Maintenance Squadron survival equipment technician, and Airman 1st Class Kelli McLean, 354th MXS aerospace ground equipment technician, for their dedication to the program during the past year.

The youth center is looking for coaches and officials. To volunteer, contact the youth center at 377-3194 or 377-1069.



Photos by Sarah Nolin



Above, Airman Perez catches the first pitch of the season. Left, Airman 1st Class Hunter Lindblad, 354th Logistics Readiness Squadron, was named Eielson’s 2006 National Youth Sports Coaches’ Association Coach of the Year. Senior Airman Tasia Perez and Airman 1st Class Kelli McLean, 354th Maintenance Squadron, received awards for Eielson’s 2006 Junior National Basketball Association Coaches of the Year.

Iceman helps search for survivors

by Tech. Sgt. William Farrow
354th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Five years ago, Senior Master Sgt. Dean Sprague couldn't have imagined being a convoy commander, manning a .50-caliber machine gun or providing airfield security with the Army, all roles he has filled while performing duties in Afghanistan.

While filling these airfield security roles at Bost Airfield in Helmond Province, Afghanistan, Sergeant Sprague, 354th Logistics Readiness Squadron vehicle management flight chief, also did a quick stint as an aircraft crash and recovery specialist and emergency medical technician.

In April, Sergeant Sprague and his other team members were busy readying the airfield for the arrival of a routine flight. The arriving flight was to continue on and two of his seven-member Opium Eradication Force team were to board the plane for a return flight to Kabul.

Sergeant Sprague and the remaining team members, Army Col. Michael Winstead, Army Lt. Col. Allen Barnes and Sgt. 1st Class Robert Clegg, were busy driving down the active runway, checking for improvised explosive devices and searching for hostiles that might be lurking in the area.

They finally settled into their perimeter at the runway's end, where the arriving Russian-made AN-32 aircraft would come to rest and offload passengers and cargo.

"When I say 'airfield,' I really mean dirt strip," Sergeant Sprague said. "In fact, everything in Helmond province but the governor's house, the Bost hotel and the mosques are made of mud bricks."

Sergeant Sprague said his first 60 days in Helmond Province were quite eventful. He had been involved with more than 150 convoys taking people and cargo to the far reaches of the province. Sergeant Sprague had even experienced two vehicle-borne improvised explosive device attacks.

Providing security for the airfield warranted the wear of body armor and helmets while they waited in their vehicles in the 110-degree heat, just 75 feet from the end of the runway.

Only seconds before the incoming aircraft was to touch down, Sergeant Sprague saw trouble as "out of nowhere," a truck the size of a "small semi" came racing out of the desert onto the active runway.

"The pilot reacted immediately and within 25 feet of touching down, he veered off the runway to the right of the vehicle. The movement caused the aircraft to toss violently, kicking dust and debris 75 feet in the air," Sergeant Sprague said.

The pilot managed to guide the plane back onto the runway where he immediately tried to apply the brakes to no avail. "Again the pilot reacted quickly when he realized the brakes would not stop the aircraft in time with only 80 feet of the runway remaining. To our amazement, we heard the engines roar to life. We knew the pilot was trying to use the remaining speed to take off and attempt to fly over the danger below," he said.

Seventy-five feet from the end of the runway sat a berm situated to protect the village located on the other side.

"As my comrades and I watched, the aircraft gained altitude and the nose cleared the mountain of sand. But the rear landing gear did not, causing the aircraft's nose to dive into the mud huts," Sergeant Sprague said.

He and his team went into action and raced to the crash site. "What I witnessed that day I will reflect on for years to come," he said.

Grabbing medical kits and throwing off their body armor, the team responded to the scene, arriving as the aircraft had just finished its destructive slide.

"The town was covered in dirt and debris and people were screaming and bleeding," Sergeant Sprague said. "The plane was leaking fuel



Senior Master Sgt. Dean Sprague

Above, local Afghanis, Air Force and Army servicemembers search through a plane wreckage with sticks to find survivors.

from both wings, and the brakes on the right side were smoking. We were only six people strong, and the collateral damage to the village was massive. But luckily, all of our team had years of self-aid and buddy-care training and combat lifesaving training and that made the difference."

His team rescued 12 passengers, most of whom only had light injuries. As one half of the team focused on rescuing the aircrew, Sergeant Sprague and his half began pulling villagers from the wreckage.

"After I had uncovered a 2 1/2-year-old baby and a 13-year-old girl from the landing gear area, a Kutzi (local villager) woman began to scream and point to a hole which was once her home," he said. "We started to dig and dig, not knowing what we were looking for. We had no shovels, so we were digging with our bare hands, and after a minute or two, we pulled a 20-day-old baby from under the dirt, unharmed and crying. It was the highlight of our day."

After extracting the obvious victims, the team moved to assist with the aircrew rescue effort.

"The loadmaster had survived and was wandering out of the gaping hole in the front of the aircraft," he said. "I escorted him to a safe spot and then looked into the hole for more aircrew. I remember saying 'the pilot is dead' and, looking up, I saw the head and hand of the flight engineer and said, 'He's dead, too,' but as soon as I spoke, he raised his hand and opened his eyes. That sight will be with me forever."



Senior Master Sgt. Dean Sprague, 354th Logistics Readiness Squadron vehicle management flight chief, teaches local Afghan farmers how to grow other profitable crops during the first-ever Afghan Poppy eradication operation.

Sergeant Sprague and Colonel Winstead immediately went to work clearing the wreckage from around the body. After about 10 minutes, the colonel grabbed the engineer by the shoulders and pulled him up far enough so that Sergeant Sprague could grab his belt and get him free.

"He had internal injuries and a broken leg but was conscious during the entire ordeal," Sergeant Sprague said.

He said that the accident caused him to reflect on the new roles Air Force professionals perform, often working side-by-side with sister services.

"Our training, fast-paced learning curves and ever-changing force is up to the tasks at hand in Iraq and Afghanistan," he said. "I am honored to serve beside the Army, Navy and Marines and even prouder to see the Air Force leading from the front in many cases. We are a positive and capable force and I am proud to be on the Iceman Team serving in this desperate country."

Sergeant Sprague received the Bronze Star "for his exceptionally meritorious service while deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as the Senior Maintenance Non-Commissioned Officer," according to his award citation. "He masterfully executed the entire maintenance regimen for the Afghan National Police and deployed to Helmand as the Logistics Officer for the first-ever Afghan Poppy Eradication operation."

As news of the accident, and response to it by Sergeant Sprague and his teammates, has spread, relief and support efforts at Eielson have begun to develop and continue to gain momentum.

Upon hearing the story from her husband first-hand, Sergeant Sprague's wife, Tammie, and her friend Paula Wineland, wife of Chief Master Sgt. Erik Wineland, 354th Logistics Readiness Squadron, who is also TDY in Afghanistan, went to work to send more than 400 pounds of clothing to Sergeant Sprague and directly support the village affected by the plane crash.

"He has shared many stories with me but this one - especially since he has children of his own - really had an impact on his life and helped him realize what is important," Mrs. Sprague said.

"Mrs. Wineland and I had already been gathering clothing to send for the children there," she added. "At first, he (Sergeant Sprague) was going to take all the donations to an orphanage in Kabul, but when this (accident) happened he decided it would hopefully enhance relations with that devastated community and perhaps give them a little happiness for a while, so he arranged transportation to send some of the donations to Helmand."

She said she sent her husband 400 pounds of clothing and shoes which people from the Eielson community had donated. The community also generously donated almost enough money to cover the entire shipping cost.

"The Iceman Team rallied together," Sergeant Sprague said. "I want to personally thank my wife, Mrs. Wineland and the rest of the Iceman Team for their generosity and time."